

Pump-Probe Studies of Atomic Inner-Shell Photoionization and Vacancy Decay

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*Workshop on Time Domain Science Using X-Ray Techniques
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Office of Science Laboratory
Operated by The University of Chicago



Laser-pump X-ray-probe studies of atomic inner-shell physics

- Scientific motivations
- First results at APS beamline 7ID
- Instrumentation and methods
- Future scientific directions
- Suggestions for advanced capabilities at the APS

Collaborators

Atomic Physics Group

Bob Dunford, Dave Ederer, Elliot Kanter, Bertold Krässig, Steve Southworth, Linda Young (ANL-CHM)

Juana Rudati (ANL-APS)

X-ray Optics

Eric Dufresne (ANL-APS)

Peter Eng (Geo-CARS, U. Chicago)

Ultrafast Laser

David Reis, Matt DeCamp, Emily Peterson (U Michigan)

Eric Landahl (ANL-APS)

Rob Crowell, Dave Gosztola (ANL-CHM)

Predicted high-field modification of Kr x-ray absorption edge

Field-free

Kr $1s \rightarrow 5p, 6p, \dots, \epsilon p$

Ponderomotive shift of continuum

$$U_p = e^2 E^2 / 4m\omega^2$$

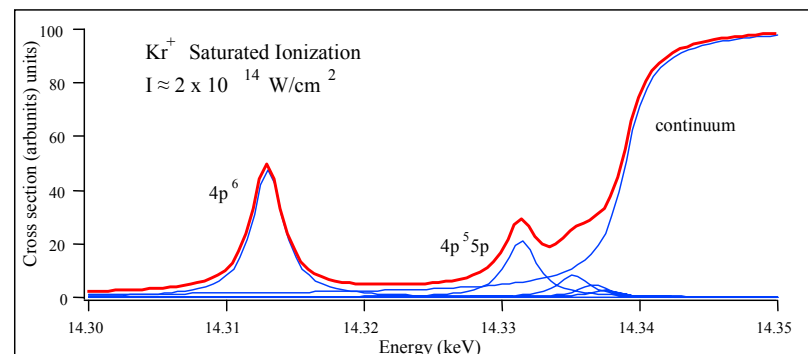
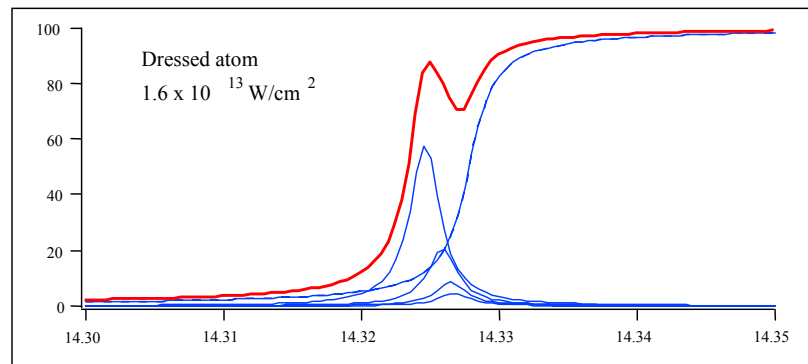
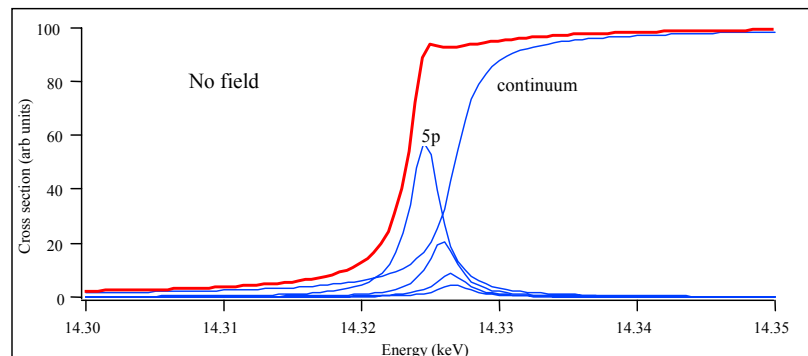
≈ 1 eV for 800 nm laser

at 1.6×10^{13} W/cm²

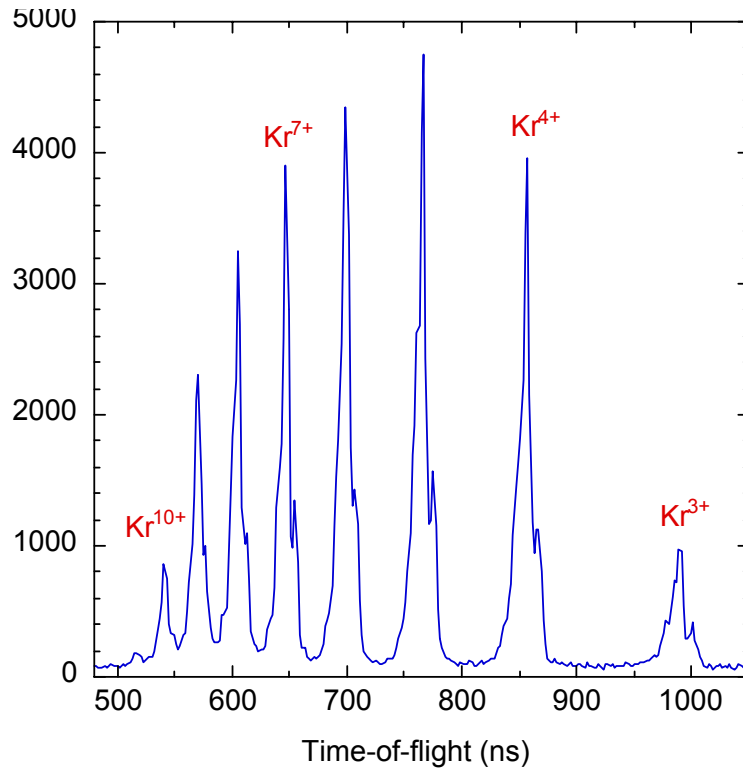
Strong-field ionization

$\approx 2 \times 10^{14}$ W/cm²

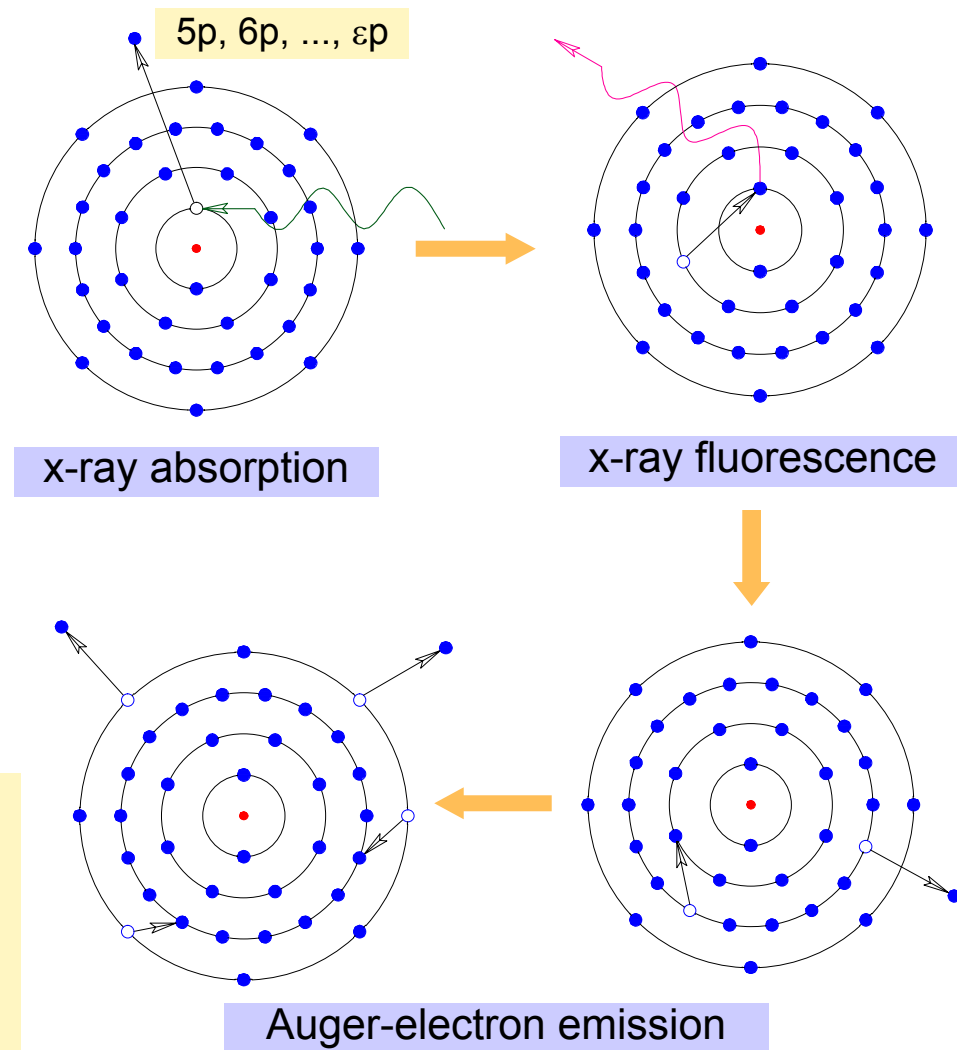
Kr⁺ $1s \rightarrow 4p, 5p, 6p, \dots, \epsilon p$



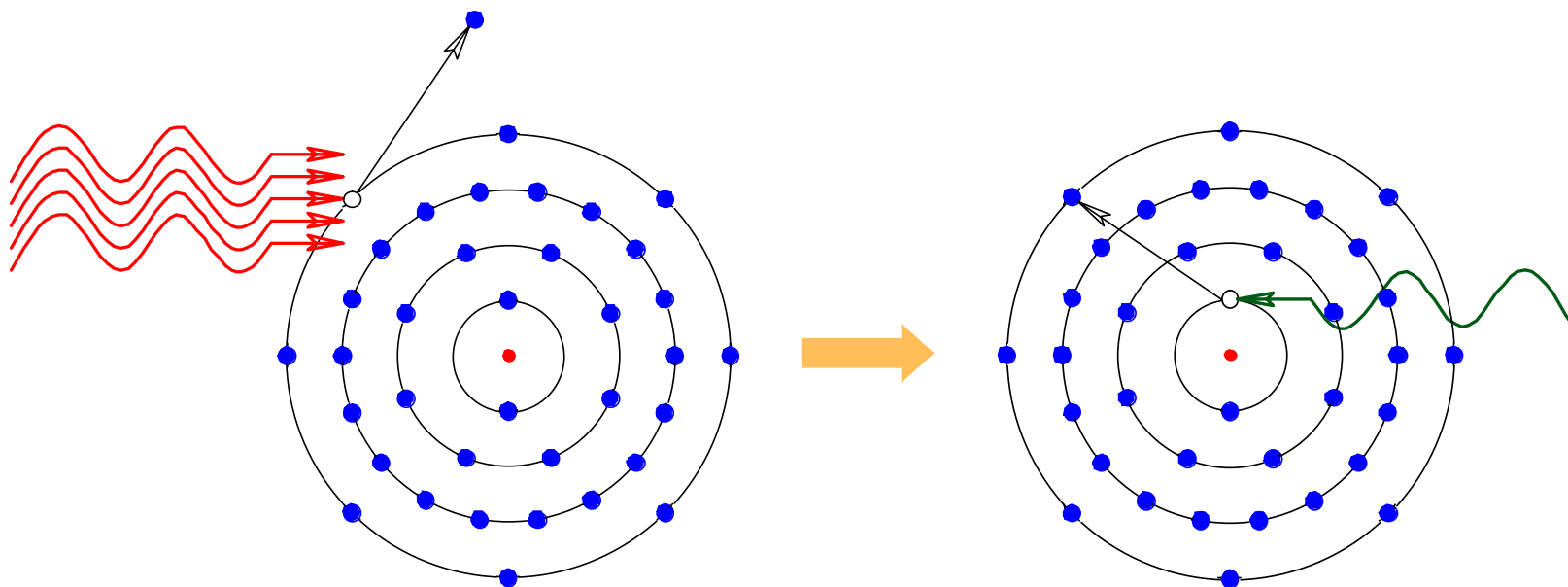
Photoionization and vacancy decay across threshold



- Multi-step vacancy-decay pathways
- Bound and continuum intermediate states
- Post-collision interactions
- Final-state sticking probabilities
- Unknown dressed-atom effects



Our first pump-probe experiment at APS beamline 7ID



High field ($\approx 10^{14}$ W/cm²) of optical laser (1.55 eV) ionizes Kr 4p electron

X ray (14.3 keV) excites 1s electron to 4p hole

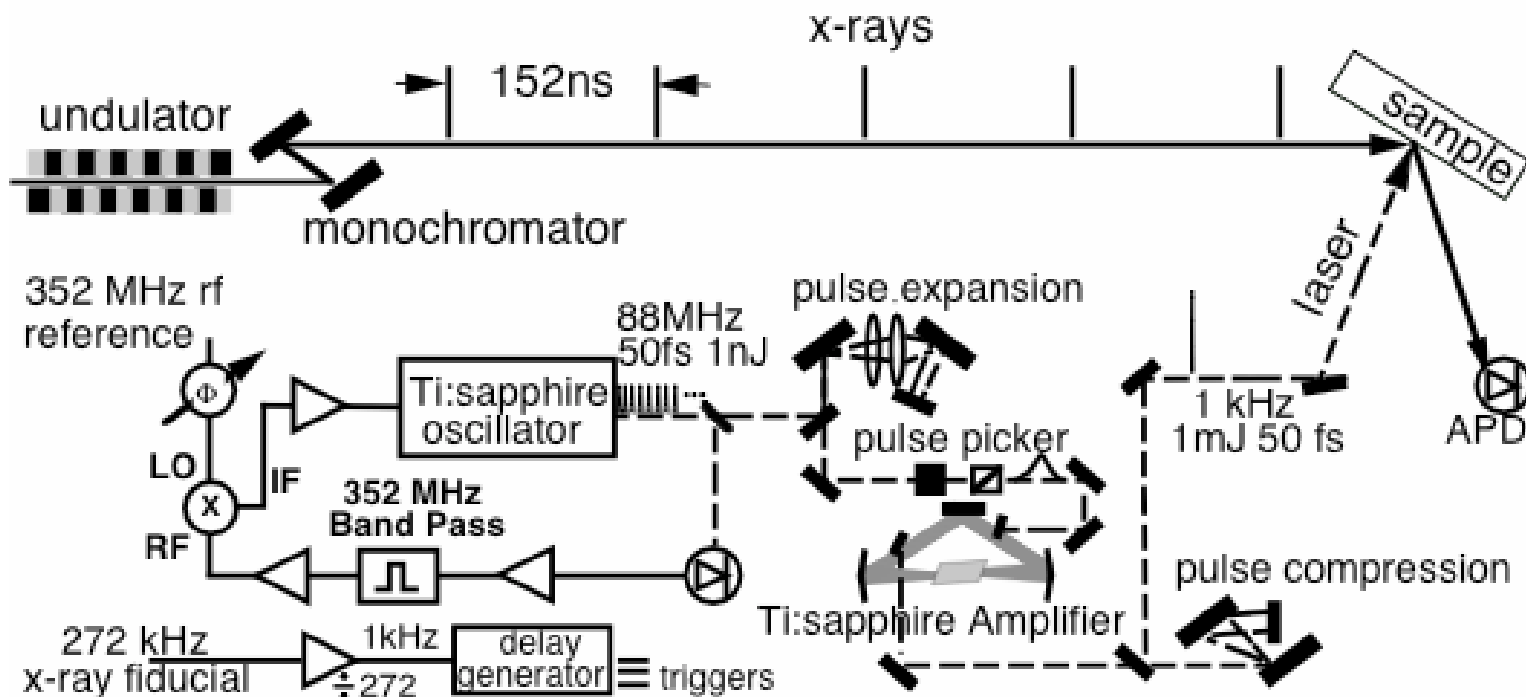
Beamline 7ID laser system - June 2004

1.1 km APS storage ring
352 MHz RF, 1296 buckets
272 kHz, 3.68 μ s

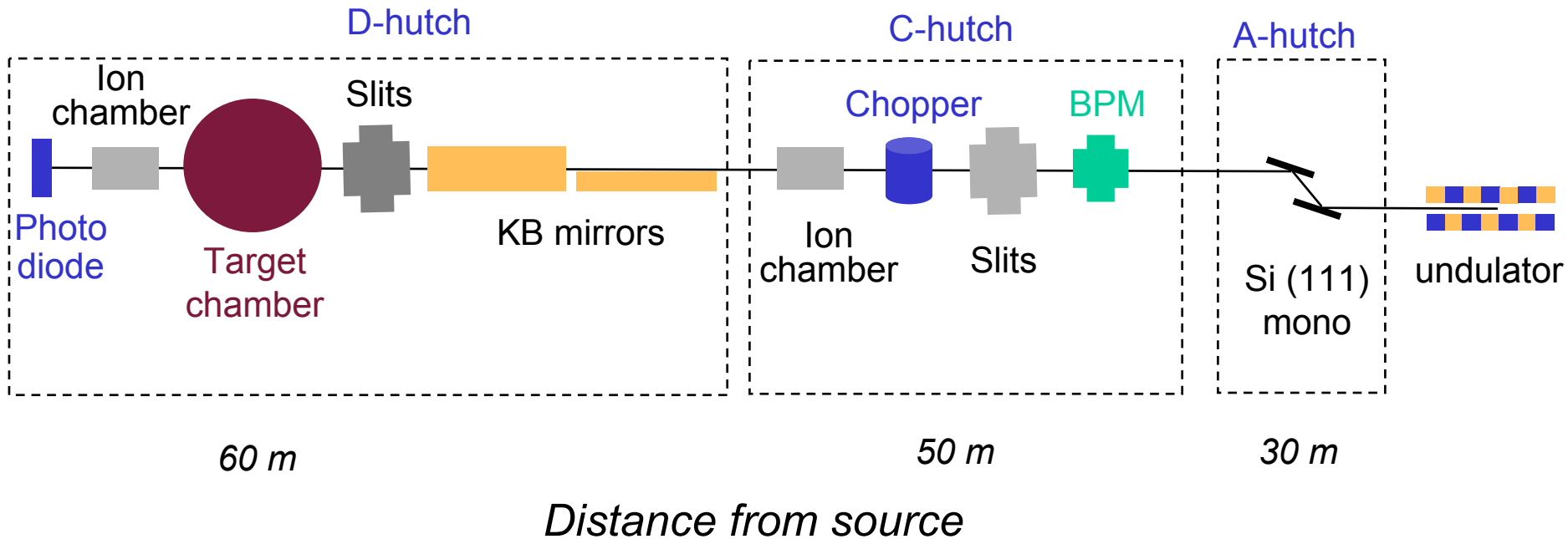
laser-xray timing jitter ≈ 2 ps

oscillator: 88 MHz, 1 nJ, 50 fs
amplifier: 1 kHz, 1 mJ, 50 fs

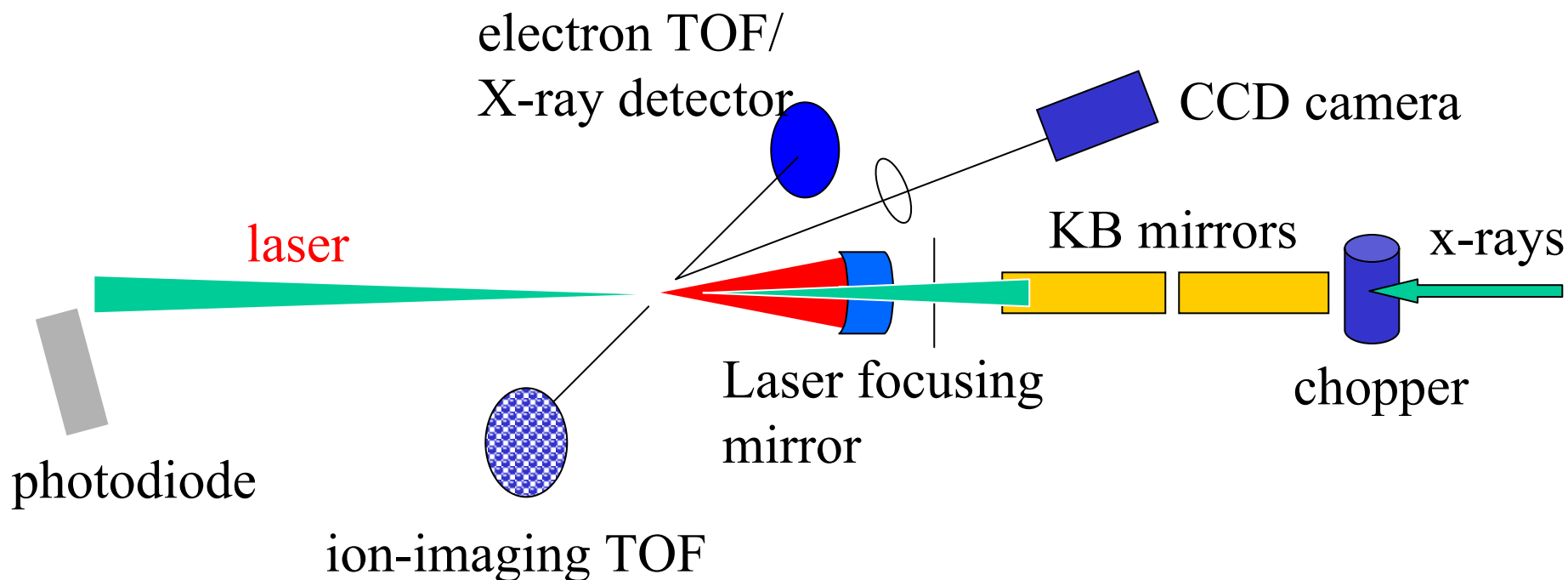
focusing to ≈ 10 μ m spot required
for 10^{13} – 10^{14} W/cm² regime



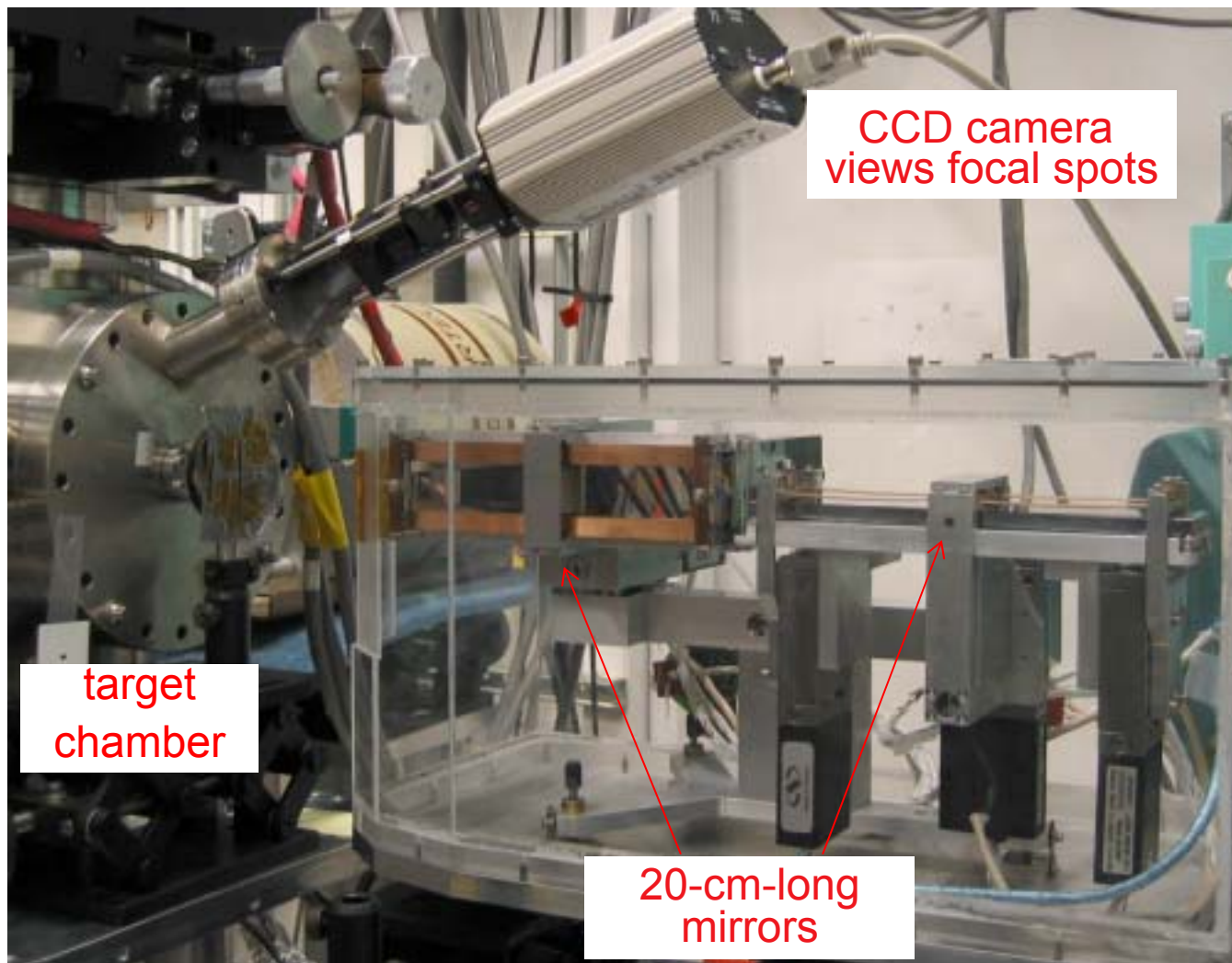
7ID x-ray beam path



Focused laser and x-ray beams overlapped in space and time through atomic-gas target

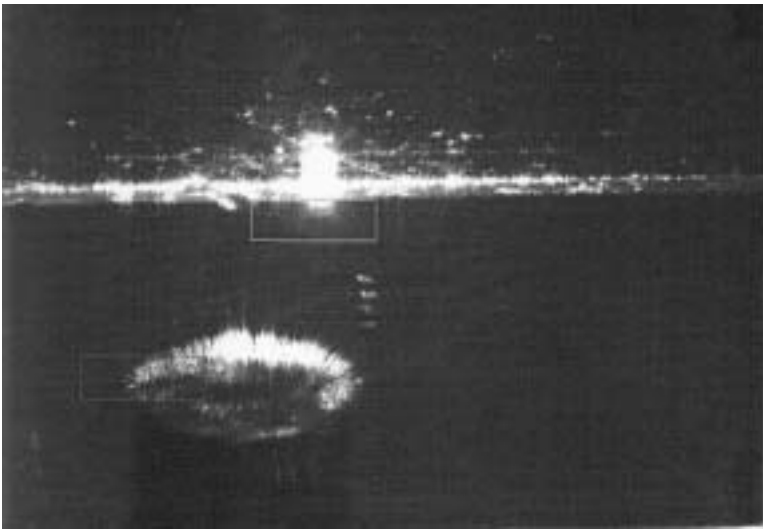


Kirkpatrick-Baez x-ray microfocus mirrors



Viewing and overlapping focal spots

- Focus x rays to center of chamber
- Locate x-ray centroid with BGO
- Overlap focused laser
 - rough: BGO crystal
 - fine: in-vacuum cross hairs



Measuring overlap of focused laser and x-ray beams

Scan 10 μm cross-hair

*X-rays: monitor current
electrically isolated cross-hair*

*Laser: monitor scattered light
pixel sum from a selected region
on CCD camera*

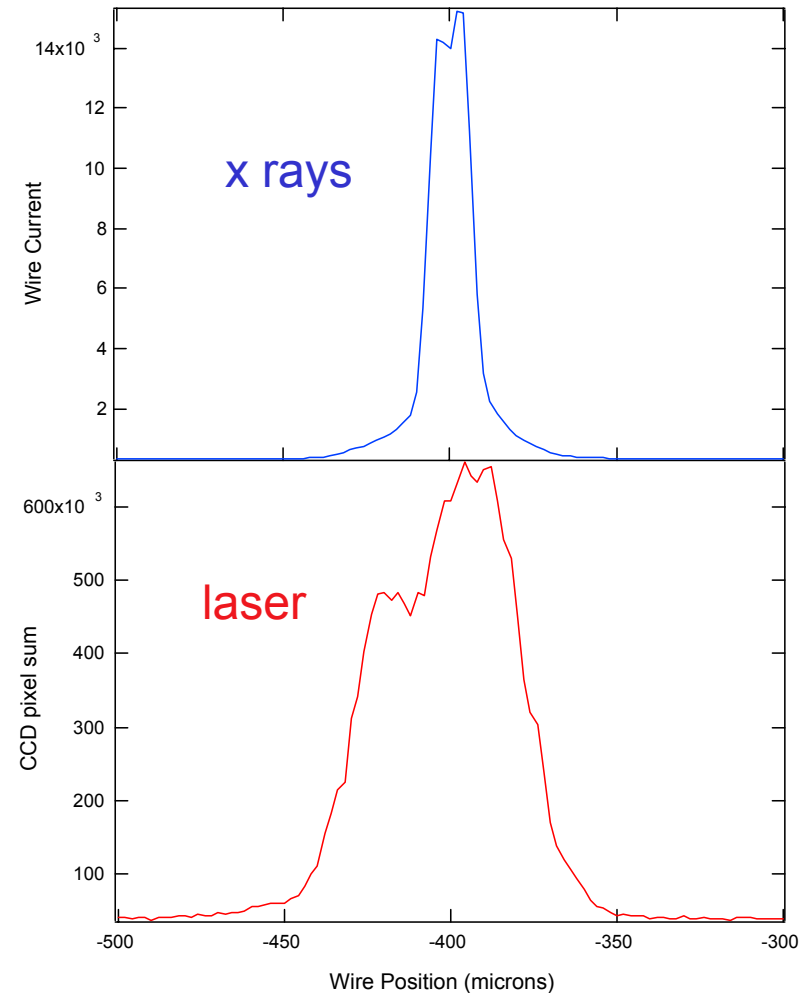
June 2004:

Laser waist $\approx 30 \mu\text{m}$

Rayleigh range $\approx 3 \text{ mm}$

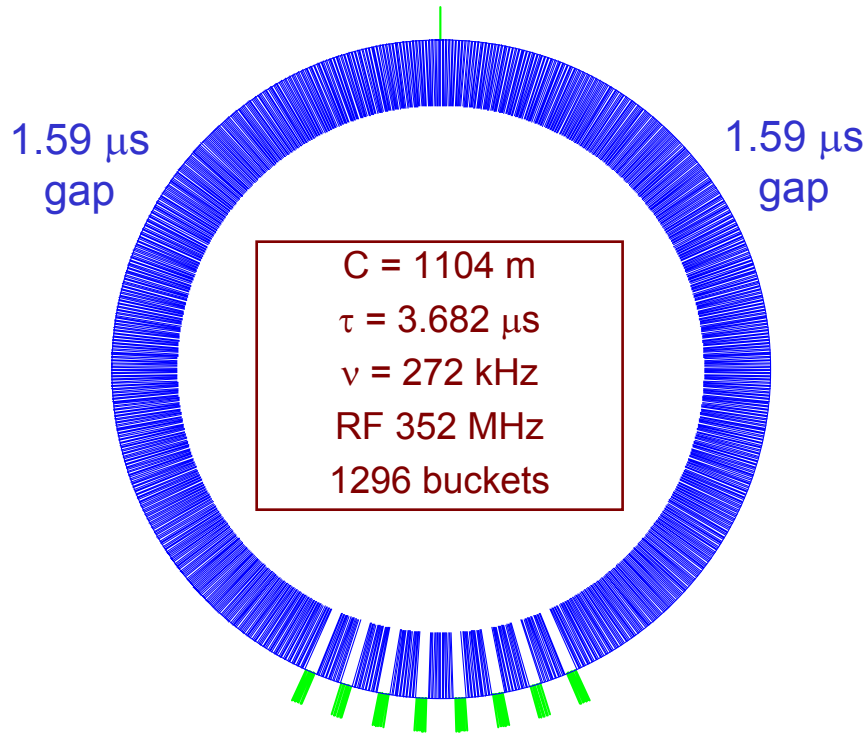
X-rays $\approx 13 \mu\text{m}$

Crossing angle $\approx 20 \mu\text{m/mm}$



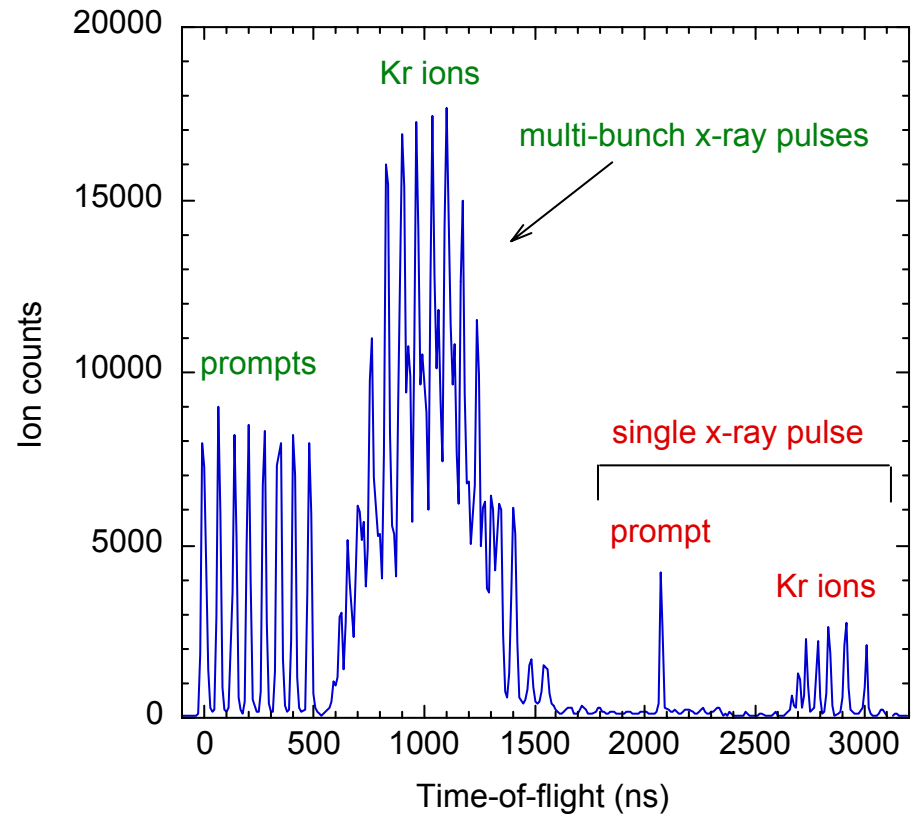
APS ring fill pattern with isolated bucket

Single bunch, ~ 87 ps, ~ 8 mA

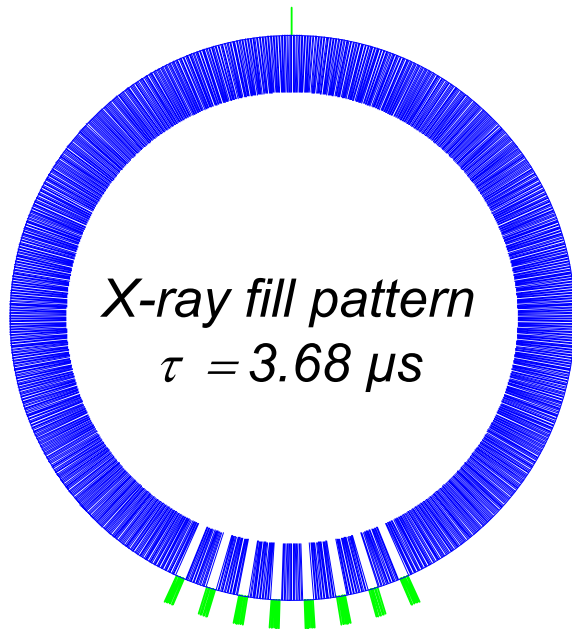


8x7 multi-bunch, $0.50 \mu\text{s}$, ~ 92 mA

Kr ion time-of-flight spectroscopy

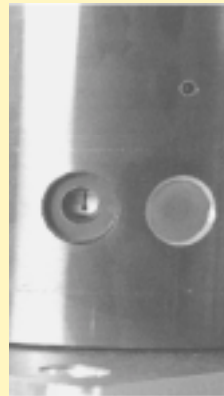


Mechanical chopper transmits singlet x-ray pulses



$\approx 80,000$ rpm air-bearing rotor
drive frequency phase locked to ring RF
transmits 1 singlet x-ray pulse out of 102
transmitted flux $\approx (8 \times 10^{-4}) \times$ total flux
KB-focused flux $\approx 4 \times 10^5$ x-rays/pulse

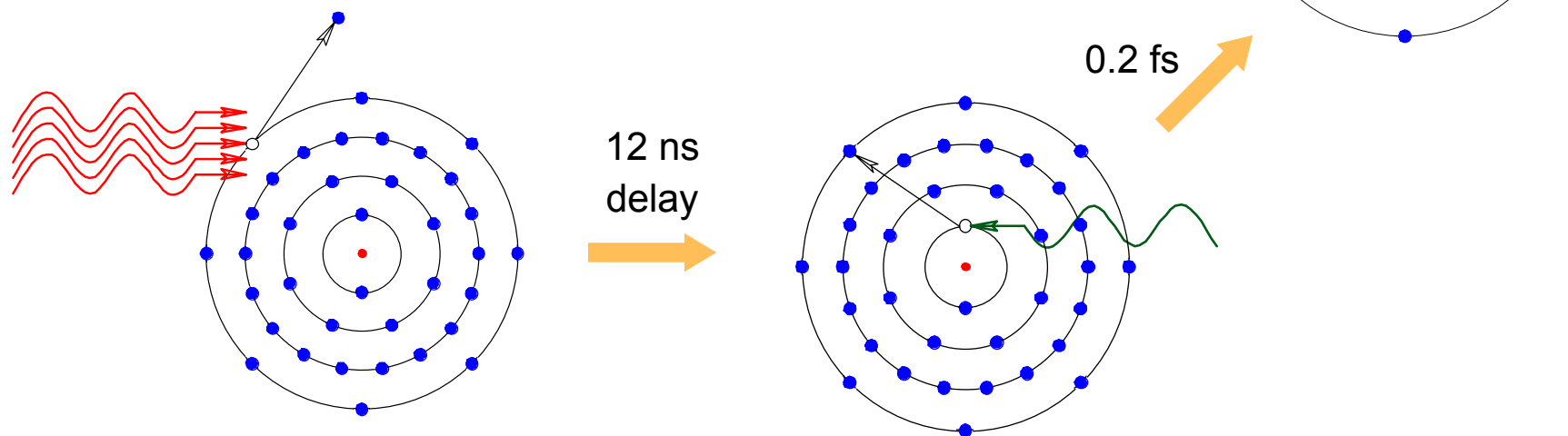
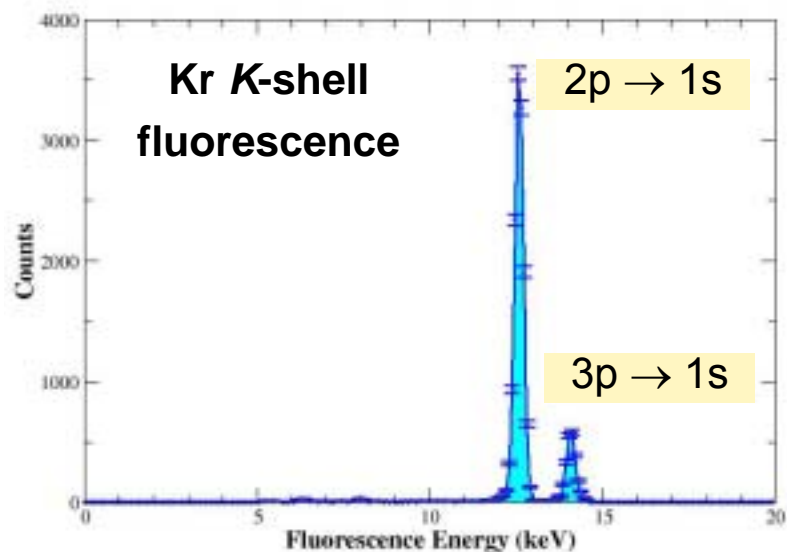
Chopper selects singlet x-ray pulses @ 2.66 kHz
Laser @ 887 Hz : 1 laser-on vs 2 laser-off



0.51 mm slot
50.8 mm diameter
2.45 μs open time

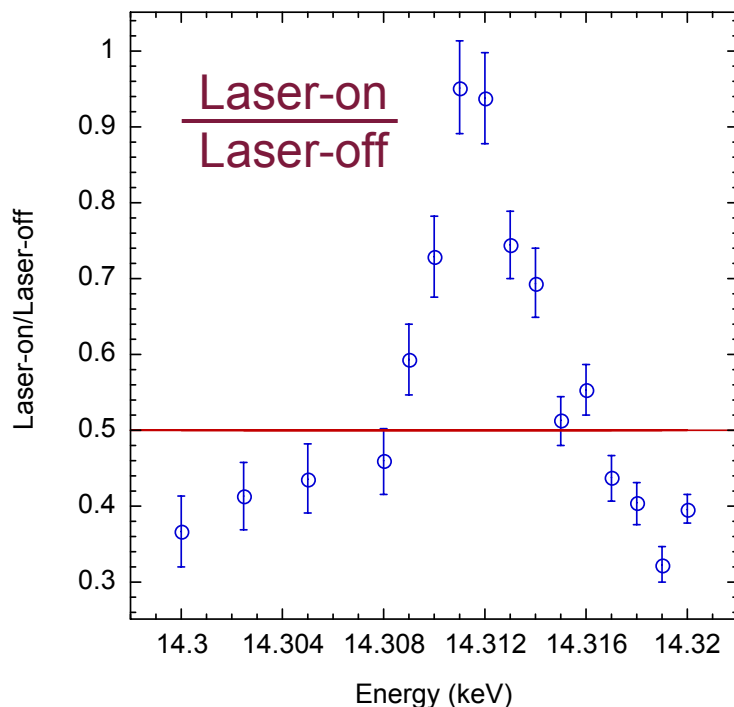
Laser: 800 nm, 887 Hz, 0.3 mJ, 60 fs, 30 μm focus, $6 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$

X-ray probe of laser-produced Kr^+

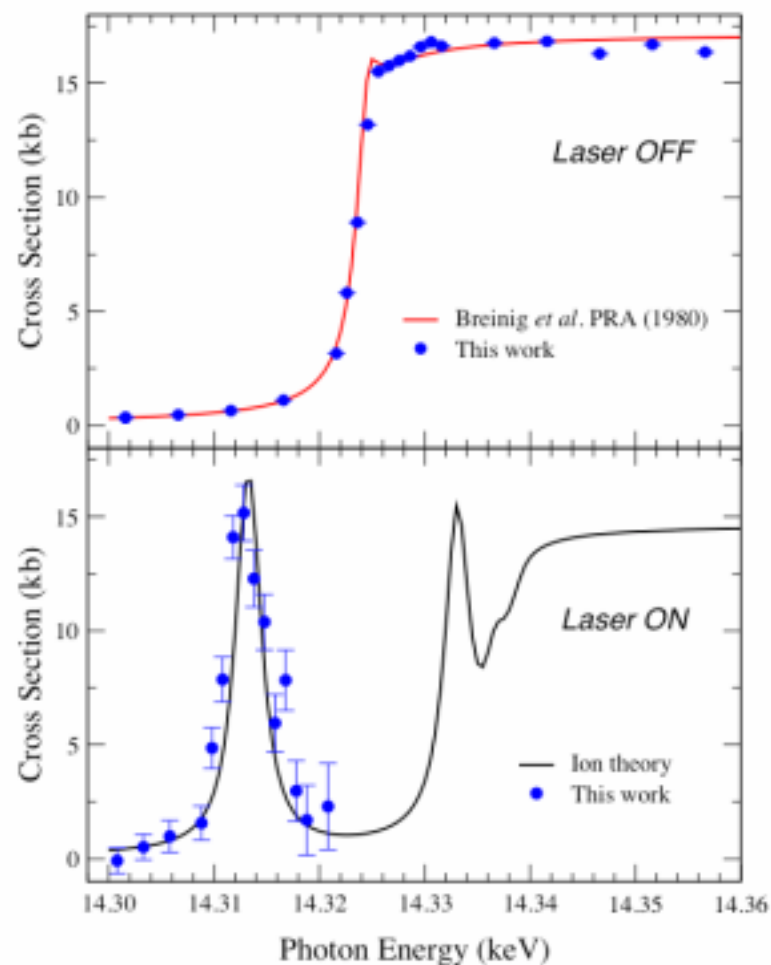


$1s \rightarrow 4p$ resonance in laser-produced Kr^+

x-ray fluorescence rate



887 Hz laser pulses
2661 Hz x-ray pulses
on/off = 0.5



Kr^+ theory: L. Pan and D.R. Beck

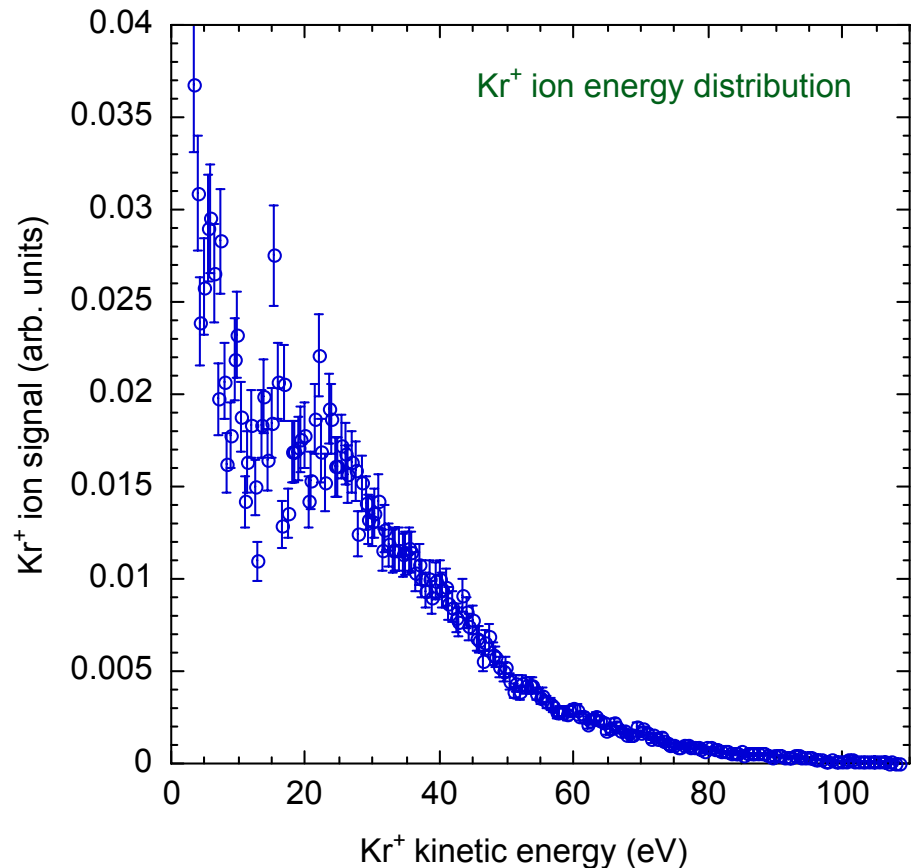
Coulomb explosion of Kr^+ ion assembly

focal volume $\approx 30 \mu\text{m}$ dia $\times 3 \text{ mm}$ long
intensity $\approx 6 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$
atom density $\approx 10^{13}/\text{cm}^3$
 $\rightarrow 10^7$ ions/pulse

10 eV Kr^+ ion velocity $\approx 40 \mu\text{m/ns}$
 \rightarrow study dynamics of ion assembly
by varying x-ray probe delay

similar to Coulomb explosion of
laser-ionized clusters

tunable x-ray probe
 $\approx 10 \mu\text{m}$ spatial resolution
 $\approx 100 \text{ ps}$ temporal resolution

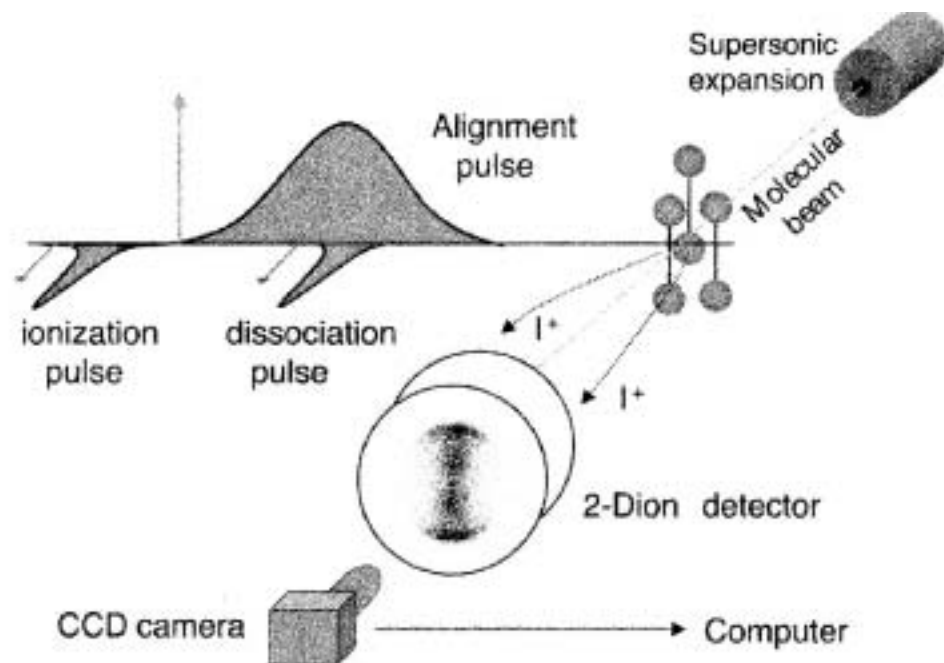


Laser upgrades in progress at beamline 7ID

- Dedicated laser hutch
- Ti:sapphire regenerative amplifier
- Diode-pumped solid-state pump laser
- Compressed pulses 2.5 mJ, 40 fs – 10 ps
- Stretched pulses 4.0 mJ, 130 ps
- Repetition rate 1 – 5 kHz

→ Higher peak intensity, higher rep rate, and complete overlap of x-ray pulses (87 ps) for dressed-atom experiments

Future directions: atoms → small molecules



Alignment, molecular geometry, coherent control

Marcos Dantus

Tamar Seideman

Steve Pratt

Stefan Vajda

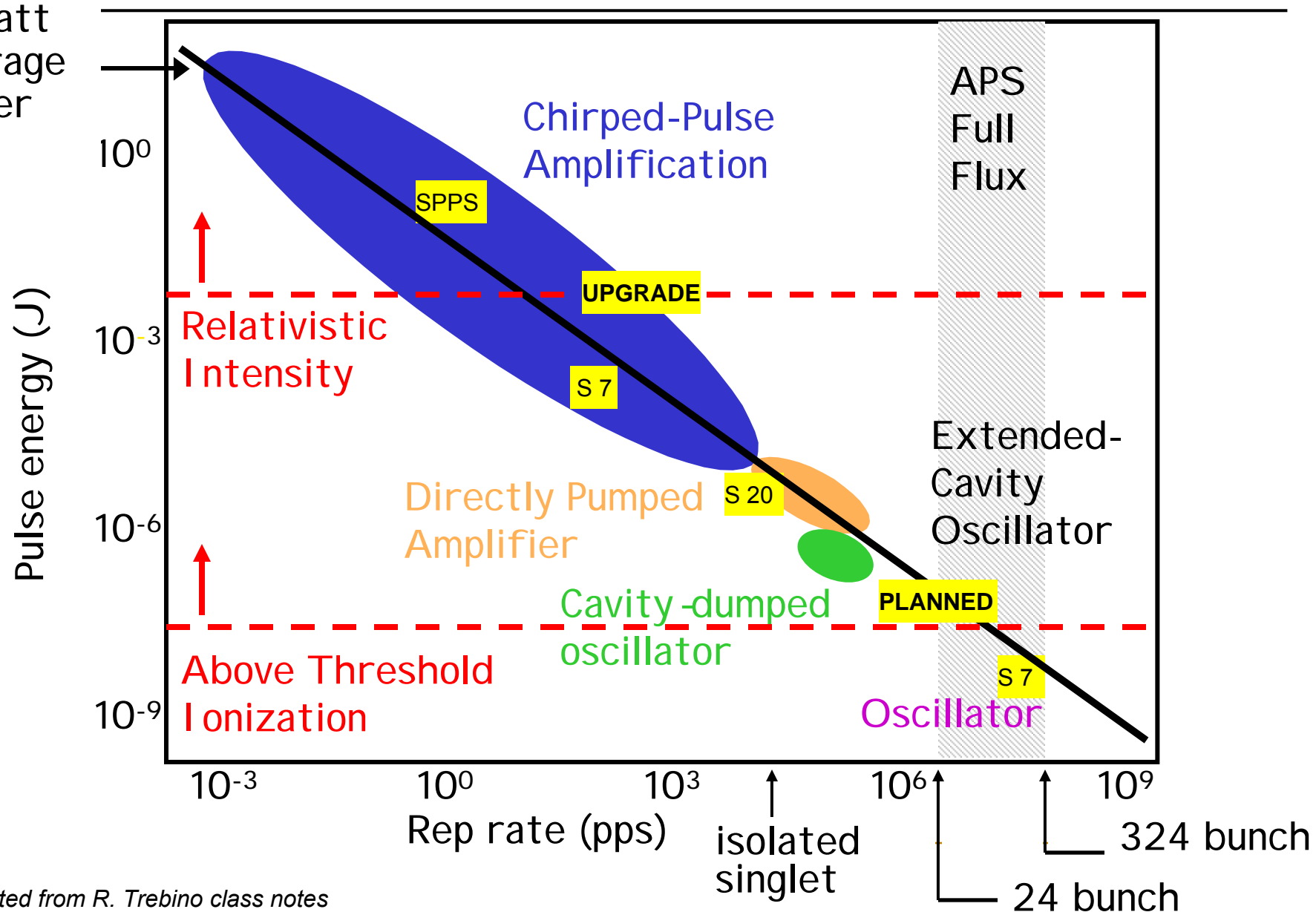
Aligning molecules with laser pulses

H. Stapelfeldt and T. Seideman

Rev. Mod. Phys. **75**, 543 (2003)

courtesy of E. C. Landahl

Femtosecond-laser pulse energy vs. repetition rate



Considerations for improved pump-probe capabilities

Repetition rate

- Storage-ring bunch patterns
- Mechanical or x-ray-optical choppers
- High-power laser oscillators

X-rays/pulse

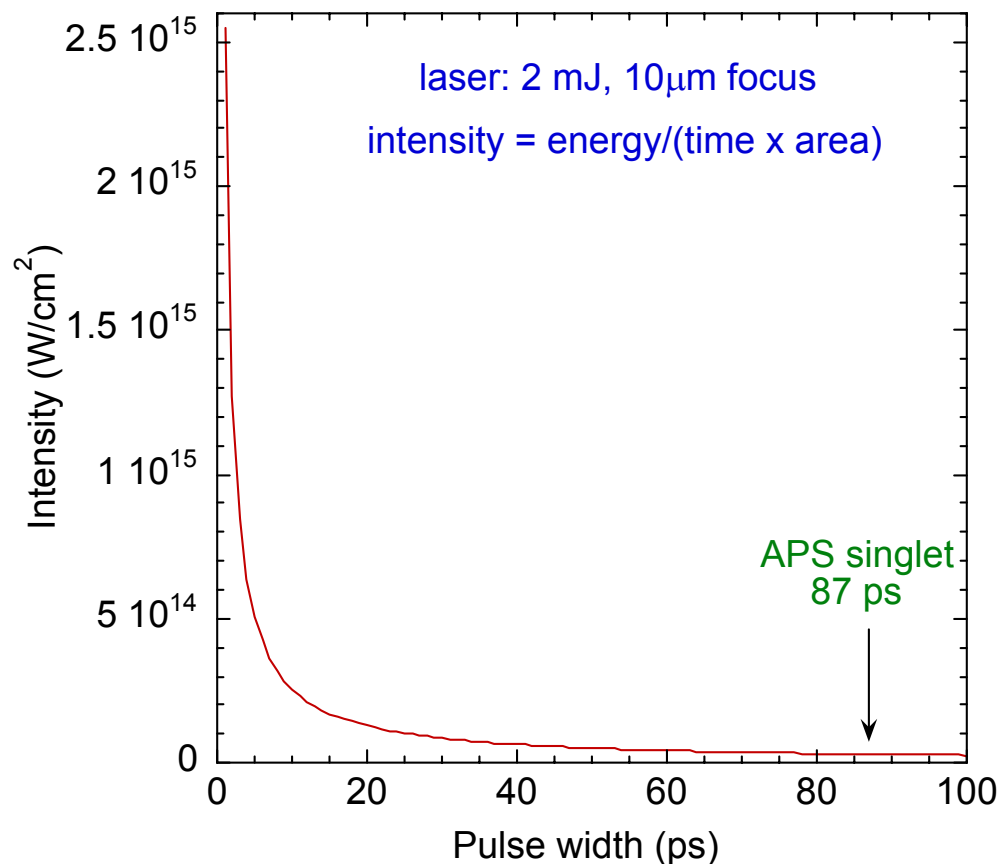
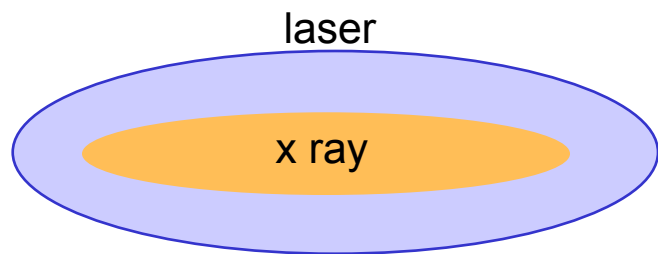
- high stored current in singlets
- pink-beam experiments

X-ray focusing with high throughput

- KB mirrors
- Li lens
- zone plates

APS x-ray pulse width

Shorter x-ray pulse enables dressed-atom experiments at higher laser intensity



Develop APS capability for pump-probe experiments using soft x rays

- Lower-Z atoms at lower x-ray energies
- Longer lifetimes → better resolved resonance and threshold structure
- Fewer electrons → simpler decay spectra
- Larger cross sections
- Can do high-resolution electron spectroscopy, but x-ray spectroscopy more challenging

